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Osprey, Super Stallion, Cobra flights remain temporarily suspended

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS, WASHINGTON, DC — Flight operations for three models of Marine Corps aircraft were temporarily suspended by the Naval Aviation Systems Command this weekend after officials discovered unrelated problems with each type of aircraft.

The suspension orders were issued Aug. 25 for the CH-53E Super Stallion transport helicopter, AH-1W Cobra attack helicopter and the MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft. A portion of the Corps' AV-8B Harrier jet fleet remains grounded, following a July 11 order suspending flights due to concerns about engine bearing problems.

Most significant is the grounding of 165 of the Corps' heavy-lift CH-53E helicopters, eight of which are currently deployed. The decision to suspend operations is based on the preliminary findings of the crash of a Navy MH-53E mine-sweeping helicopter off the coast of Corpus Christi, Texas, Aug. 10.

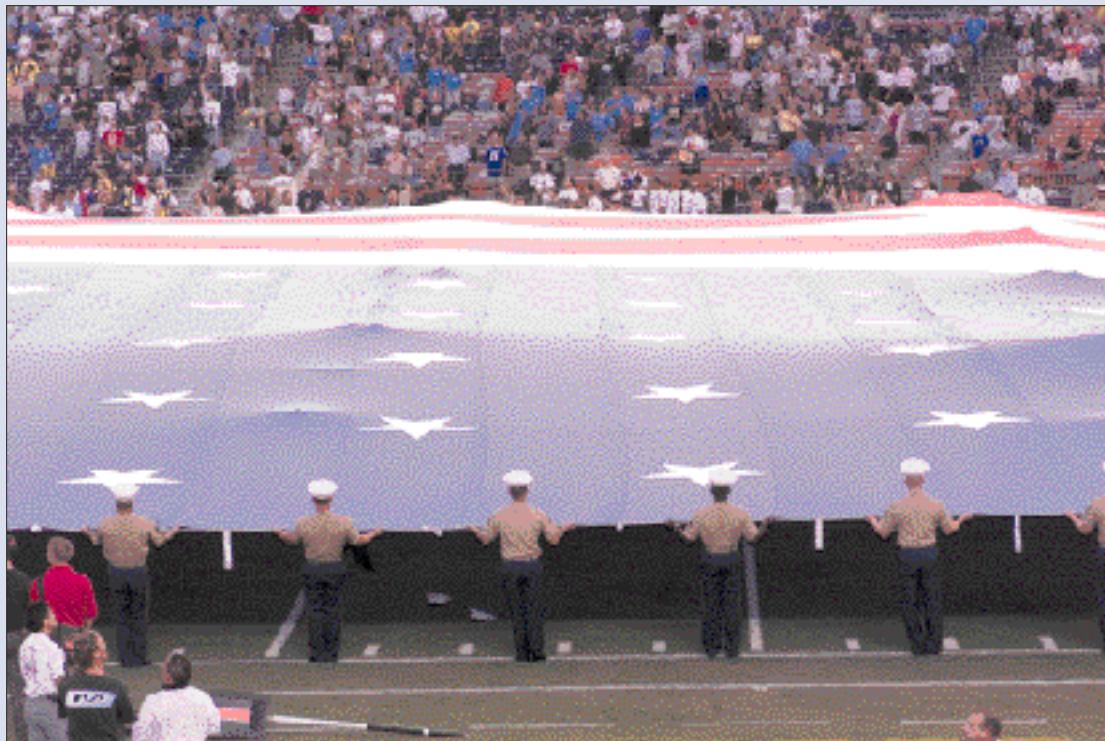
Officials suspended AH-1W Cobra flight operations after it was discovered this week that some

older rotor blades may be susceptible to cracking. Each of the Corps' 198 helicopters will undergo a one-time inspection to identify and replace, if necessary, the suspect blades before being returned to flight status. Eight of the Cobras are currently deployed.

Officials also suspended flight operations for the MV-22 tiltrotor aircraft after one of the Corps' 11 Ospreys made a precautionary landing Aug. 24 at Camp Lejeune, N.C. The MV-22's backup systems worked flawlessly and the pilot landed safely, but a subsequent maintenance inspection revealed that a coupling on the aircraft's interconnect drive shaft failed.

The coupling was repaired, and the aircraft later returned to Marine Corps Air Station, New River, N.C., where it is based.

Engineers will examine the other 10 MV-22s to ensure the failure was isolated. The Osprey, which can fly like a plane and take off and land like a helicopter, completed operational evaluation in July and is awaiting the go-ahead to proceed with full-rate production.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Daniel C. Hottle



Devil Dogs and Bolts dazzle San Diego

Miramar Marines unfurl a football field-sized national ensign before the kickoff of the San Diego Chargers final preseason game Aug. 25 at Qualcomm Stadium.

The Chargers sponsored a spectacular salute to the U.S. Armed Forces. More than 450 Marine, Navy and Coast Guard service members participated in the pregame and halftime festivities. Receiving individual recognition at the game was Lance Cpl. Sudesh Ramjattan, Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting, who was named MCAS Miramar's Marine of the Quarter. See page 8 for related story.

IN THE News

MCCS reps highlight Miramar concerns at DoD conference

Page 2

Features

All-Marines flex muscles at armed forces softball tourney

Pages 6

Jaguars continue Pendleton league dominance

Pages 7



Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel C. Hottle

Rollin' out 'the Dog'

To learn why this restored UH-34D helicopter and more than 500 former helo pilots and aircrew members converged on Miramar Saturday, see page 3.

Sgt. Maj. Martinez bids farewell to H&HS

By Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Sergeant Maj. Juan J. Martinez relinquished his post as the sergeant major for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron to Sgt. Maj. Carlton P. Chin in a post-and-relief ceremony Wednesday afternoon outside base operations.

Martinez, a native of Brownsville, Texas, has served as the H&HS senior enlisted leader since October 1997. His next assignment will be as the sergeant major for 1st Brigade Service Support Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

"My goals when I came here were to make MCAS Miramar the showplace of our Corps," said Martinez. "I also wanted to reinforce good Marines and make the station's best Marines representatives to the community. I think I

accomplished my goals because this is the best station in the Marine Corps, and you can tell by the type of Marines that we have here. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Chin comes from the 6th Engineer Support Bn., Portland, Ore., where he served as the sergeant major for the inspector instructor staff. "I'm glad to be here and I hope to carry on the legacy that's being left by Sgt. Maj. Martinez," said Chin.

Chin, a New York City native, entered the Marine Corps in 1974 and has carried on the Marine Corps tradition of 'every clime and place' by serving at several spots on the globe.

His many duty stations include Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, Fort Knox, Ky., Boise, Idaho, Quantico, Va.,

See **Post & Relief**, page 4

Flight Jacket



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MCCS aims to strengthen military family

Miramar reps address concerns at DoD conference

By Staff Sgt. Ted L. Hansen

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Throughout the past few months, the relationship between the role of the family and military readiness has received renewed emphasis throughout the Department of Defense.

Miramar representatives recently attended a DoD-sponsored family issues conference to learn what family-strengthening initiatives are in store for the future.

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen and his wife, Janet Langhart Cohen, hosted the first Military Family Forum in May, which is planned to become an annual event. The forum was followed by the DoD Family Readiness Conference held in Tempe, Ariz., Aug. 22-24. The theme of the conference was "The Military's Strongest Unit: The Family." Three major themes were emphasized: family, economic and community well-being.

Among those in attendance were seven members of the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Marine Corps Community Services Personnel Services and Family Team Building Divisions.

The Director of MCCS Personal Services Division, Ruth Mushallo, represented the air station at the conference and was a panel member during a workshop about family support for deploying service members. She and Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Keating, staff non-commissioned officer in charge of the Miramar MCCS Personal Service Division, said they were pleased with the attention military families are receiving from the highest levels within the Marine Corps and DoD.

"You recruit a Marine, but you retain a family," said Mushallo. She added that the conference is the latest step in the way family support programs are supported from the highest leadership level.

Keating said the intent of the conference was not to mold all programs alike, but to expose attendees to different models so they could find the "best practice" to support the families at their installation.

According to an Aug. 23 Armed Forces Information Service press release, the event was the first of its kind since 1992. The event was attended by an estimated 800 commanders, military family support specialists and military family members from all branches of service, including reserve components and the National Guard.

In addition to messages presented by guest speakers, attendees conducted several workshops to share information about their various programs and what they have found to be successful at their commands.

Mushallo pointed out that the way MCCS at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego supports its

families is far different in some ways than the way families at Miramar are supported, despite the fact they are less than 15 miles apart.

"Here at Miramar we have squadrons deploying for six months at a time, so we focus more on deployment readiness. The stresses of deployment are far different than the stresses on a drill instructor's wife at MCRD." She also noted the needs of recruiters' families would be far different as well due to their often-remote location from a military installation. However, Keating noted that DoD emphasized that a service member should be able to receive the same quality and number of personal services at any installation.

Another point driven home was the difference between "high tech" and "high touch." Mushallo and Keating said it was a point they had

See **Family**, page 8

Sharpshooters honor fallen pilot with squadron library dedication

By Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Marine Fighter Attack Training Squadron 101 dedicated its library in memory of Capt. Douglas F. Aguilera during a ceremony Aug. 25 in Hangar 3.

Aguilera, a VMFAT-101 student pilot, was killed June 16, 1999 after his F/A-18 crashed during a training flight at the Barry M. Goldwater Range, east of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

Colonel Barry B. Bizzell, VMFAT-101 commanding officer, opened the ceremony with praise for Aguilera's hard work and dedication to the squadron and the Corps.

"His professionalism across the board, his can-do attitude, his desire to succeed and do well is a good legacy to leave behind for all of the replacement aircrew onboard. To me, it is fitting that we dedicate this library in his name," said Bizzell.

Lynn Aguilera, the wife of the late pilot,

along with her 19-month-old daughter Nicole, attended the ceremony to accept the dedication, cut the ribbon and say a few words.

"It is very fitting that the squadron dedicated a library in his name, because he would stay here in this squadron building until late at night to study. He was not only dedicated to the Marine Corps but to flying and learning more about it," said Lynn Aguilera.

Standing alongside the Marines of '101 were Aguilera's sister, Yvette, his mother, Letida Proffit, and his stepfather, Jack Proffit.

The library itself is in its modest stages, according to Bizzell. But with the support of the Navy League, it will expand into something even greater in the near future.

A plaque hangs on the wall to the side of the library's door that reads Aguilera's name, reminding all who pass through of their fallen comrade.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Daniel C. Hottle

Lasting tribute

Nancy Pless of Atlanta, Ga., stands on the corner of MCAS Miramar's Pless Avenue, which was named in honor of her son, Medal of Honor recipient Maj. Stephen Pless.

Then-Capt. Pless received the award for combat helicopter operations with Marine Observation Squadron 6 near Quang Nai, Republic of Vietnam, on Aug. 19, 1969. Pless landed his helicopter between stranded U.S. soldiers and advancing enemy troops, acting as a protective shield. Under intense enemy fire, Pless evacuated the wounded and returned to base, but not before downing his helicopter into the ocean and nearly losing his own life in the process.

His mother was visiting the air station as part of Saturday's Vietnam Helicopter Association reunion.

Vietnam helo vets reunite aboard Miramar

Vietnam Helicopter Association honors POW/MIAs, fallen friends with support from MCAS Marines

By Staff Sgt. Daniel C. Hottle

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

More than 500 former Marine helicopter aviators and aircrew members and their families visited the air station Saturday, to pay their respects to POW/MIAs and comrades killed in action and during combat operations in Vietnam.

In a one-hour, formal memorial ceremony, held in conjunction with the Vietnam Helicopter Association's 2000 reunion in San Diego, veterans and family members honored 791 Marines and Navy Corpsmen who lost their lives in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975.

Overall, nearly 3,000 VHA members were present for the reunion, representing 29 aviation and support squadrons under former Marine Aircraft Groups 16 and 36, Provisional Marine Aircraft Group 39 and Marine Aircraft Group 11, which absorbed some of the fixed-wing components from the helicopter groups toward the end of the war.

Highlights of the memorial ceremony included guest speakers Lt. Col. Howard Christie, Co. A, 1st Bn., 9th Marines and Sgt. Vince Rios, Co. A, 1/9, who offered their thanks to aircrews from the infantry's perspective on the ground. Motion picture actor Tab Hunter was also on-hand, whose brother, Walter Gelien, was a Navy Corpsman killed in action. The Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Band and bagpipers from the 42nd Highlanders Regimental Pipes and Drums performed musical selections. Navy Chaplain Victor H. Krulak delivered the memorial invocation and benediction.

Throughout the four-day reunion, veterans who attended came together to share personal stories and photographs, look up old friends and see how the Marine Corps of the 21st Century differs from that of the 1960s. In addition to the memorial ceremony, former members of the "Ugly Angels" of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 362 conducted a professional military education seminar with more than 120 active-duty helicopter aircrew members from MAG-16 at Miramar's Officers' Club. The meeting afforded pilots of today the opportunity to exchange aviation stories with their combat-experienced counterparts.

"It was an excellent opportunity for us to talk one-on-one with combat trained pilots and learn their experiences," said Capt Eric Ropella, HMM-163 assistant operations officer, whose squadron hosted the PME. "I think most of the pilots walked away with a greater appreciation for the type of flying these veterans did in Vietnam. It also refocused us on our own objectives and what our primary training goals should be in today's helicopter aviation."

Other interactions between the VHA veterans and modern-day Marines included a squadron tour and reception at Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 and a visit to a recruit graduation ceremony at MCRD San Diego. Punctuating the graduation was an

MCRD flyover by a restored Vietnam-era UH-34D Choctaw helicopter. Affectionately known as "the dog" by its aircrew, the UH-34D was piloted by owner Jim Moriarty, a former Marine Observation Squadron 2 M-60 door gunner, and former VHA president Roger Herman, a former HMM-361 pilot.

In between reunion events, the veterans reflected upon intense fighting in areas such as Phu Bai, Khe Sahn and Da Nang. Some tearfully remembered fellow Marines who were lost along the way, while many tried to remain focused on the good times enjoyed in country during liberty calls or occasional down time. Even under heavy combat situations, a dose of humor could be extracted.

Herman recounts a story in which he was a young pilot in country, who had flown medevac and troop movement missions for two full months without receiving enemy fire, until one frightening UH-34D flight changed his life.

"From out of nowhere the deafening sounds of automatic weapons fire erupted all around me. They were the loudest noises I had ever heard. I came several inches out of my seat in total fear. I'm sure that I must have been yelling as loud as I

could, but that it was being drowned out by the machine gun fire," Herman explained. "I looked up to see that the windshield was covered with blood and what appeared to be body parts. It was total chaos. 'I must have been hit pretty badly,' I can remember think-

"Our body count for the mission was two confirmed VC seagulls. Welcome to the war."

*Roger Herman
Former HMM-361 pilot recounting
his first memorable combat
experience in Vietnam*



Photo by Cpl. Tisha Carter

Vietnam Helicopter Association members tearfully remember POW/MIAs and comrades who were killed in action during helicopter combat operations in Vietnam. The one hour ceremony held aboard the air station Saturday honored nearly 800 Marines and Navy Corpsmen who gave their lives in service to their country.

ing to myself. 'So this is what it's like to die.'

"Well, as luck would have it, at the very moment our M-60s had started firing, we had experienced a direct, head-on, mid-air collision with a couple of seagulls! I had learned a lot of lessons in a very short time on this one flight. We had taken several hits, but no serious damage had been done, except to my nerves. Our body count for the mission was two confirmed VC seagulls. Welcome to the war."

Alan Barbour, the current VHA president who served as a helicopter gunship pilot with VMO-2, said the VHA reunions continue to grow each year as new members find out about the organization.

He said that veterans and their families reach out to others in hopes to elicit a more collective understanding and remembrance of the Vietnam War.

"Our reunions have gotten bigger and better each year," he said. "This year by far has seen the best attendance and was truly a beautiful memorial service. We appreciate the hospitality of the Marines at Miramar and hope we impressed the young Marines as much as they impressed us."

Herman summed up the reunion and the memorial service by offering a favorite personal excerpt from former Marine infantryman Michael Norman, who wrote the book, "These Good Men."

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity.

"I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the U.S. Marine Corps. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another."

For more information, visit the VHA website at: www.popasmoke.com

Sergeants major symposium addresses Corps-wide needs

By Sgt. John Sayas

CPAO, MCB Quantico

MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va. — The annual Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Symposium concluded Aug. 15,

ending a week of round-table discussions regarding Marine Corps issues and the Commandant's vision for the Marine Corps.

The symposium was the first hosted by Quantico, and was comprised of 40 sergeants major from the Corps' most senior enlisted leadership billets, including the sergeant major of the Marine Corps. The Marines looked at as many as 80 agenda items on issues such as uniform changes, retention, drill, duty allowances and safety. Although there were many topics to discuss in such a short amount of time, the pace of the symposium moved along quite easily in the Executive Decision Room. Its computer system is similar to the one used previously by Marines who attended the Noncommissioned Officer Symposium earlier this year.



Photo by Steve Bohnstedt

Sgt. Maj. Filippo Ilaoa, Marine Corps Recruiting Command sergeant major, listens to discussions regarding current Marine issues at the annual Sergeants Major Symposium.

The system allowed the sergeants major to review agenda items entered into a database prior to the symposium according to occupational specialty. This prevented them from wasting time on issues already taken care of by action officers assigned to the

tasks and gave added time for thorough group discussions on other issues.

"It's probably the best symposium I've attended," said Sgt. Maj. Marc L. Ouellette, Headquarters Marine Corps, Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

Ouellette mentioned he has attended several sergeants major symposiums but none as sophisticated as this one.

"The use of the computer allowed us to weed out which ones were real important issues that should be raised to the commandant's attention," he said. "We were able to move a whole lot faster than we have in the past ... The action officers can tell us what's going on with an issue and if it's already being

addressed, then there's no sense for it to sit here and be addressed to the commandant."



Photo by Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

Sgt. Maj. Carlton P. Chin accepts the sword of office from Lt. Col. Paul R. Bless, H&HS commanding officer, during a post-and-relief ceremony Wednesday.

Post & Relief, continued from page 1

Portland, Ore., and three tours at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy and

Marine Corps Commendation Medal and the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star.

Chin is married to the former Greta B. Garbo of Northern Samar, Republic of the Philippines. They have a son, Joseph, and a daughter, Casey.

During group discussions, the sergeants major put together recommendations for the more important issues discussed and briefed Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps, at the conclusion of the symposium.

Agenda items and recommendations included the following:

- Standardizing drill manual for drill and ceremony manuals
- Reenlistment bonuses for every Marine including increased uniform incentives, points towards promotion, school seats and permissive temporary assigned duty
- Flat rate per diem for enlisted and officers on unit deployment assignments

- Creating an operational Career Planner Force
- Ensuring a Fitness Report copy is given to the Marine reported on.

The issues brought to the commandant's attention will be reviewed over the next several months. Some of the items may not have an immediate, or any, effect on the Marines, but others such as safety are expected to have greater impact because of how important it is to Marines' everyday lives.

Along with the sergeants major symposium, the Spouses Symposium, held simultaneously, focused on topics from a spouse's standpoint. The senior enlisted wives brought to the commandant's attention issues pertaining to spouses' roles and responsibilities, retirement and family issues.

Sergeant Major's Corner



Courtesy of Sgt. Maj. Ira J. Lott

MCABWA Sergeant Major

If you've read the Aug. 28 edition of the Marine Corps Times, then you've read of the agenda items that were submitted to the CMC for his decision. I'm interested in any opinions, pro or con, if you would like to share them. You can e-mail me at lottij@mail.miramar.usmc.mil or via MiraMarineMail. Now is the time to start thinking of items for next year.

If you've read a previous edition of the Marine Corps Times, then you've read about the new utility uniform the Marine Corps is getting. MCAS Miramar will be hosting the project officer for the new utility uniform and his team in the station theater Sept. 12. There will be a brief at 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. You can see some of the new equipment the Marine Corps has, or will be getting, and offer your comments about the new utility uniform.

The Armed Services YMCA is hosting "Operation Gaslamp" Sept. 19 in the Gaslamp Quarter. The tickets will cost \$5.00 per person. For this you will receive an official event T-shirt, ID pass and a list of the establishments offering discounts to show their appreciation for the military.

Are you married or single and new to the San Diego area, or would you just like to see another place outside of your four walls? The Armed Service YMCA provides a free tour of San Diego for you. The next tour is Wednesday, and you can sign up at the Joint Reception Center. Tours go from 9 a.m. until 2 or 3 p.m. It is time well spent for all newcomers.

Here is a note of caution: The Camp Pendleton Correctional Custody Unit is scheduled to be in operation in October. Miramar's wayward Marines will find themselves spending some time there.

Seeing many platoons conducting formation runs aboard the air station prompted me to reflect and ask myself some questions. Questions like:

- *Whatever happened to running as fast as the slowest person?*
- *Whatever happened to ensuring some one was back with a run drop?*
- *Whatever happened to the Daily Seven?*
- *Whatever happened to uniformity?*
- *What is the purpose of a formation run?*

I guess the answers are like the Gamma-goat... history.

Dining facility hours revised for Labor Day holiday

Meal hours for Gonzales Hall and the flightline trailers will be modified for the upcoming Labor Day holiday, Saturday through Tuesday.

Gonzales Hall:
Breakfast Brunch, 8 -11 a.m.
Dinner Brunch, 3-5 p.m.

The flightline trailers will be closed throughout the holiday. The dining facility will provide box lunches in lieu of midrats upon request. Contact GySgt. Oquendo at 577-1380 to order.

JRC Labor Day schedule

The Joint Reception Center G-1 Personnel and ID Cards/DEERS sections will close at 12:30 p.m. today. In observance of Labor Day, both sections will reopen for business at 7:30 a.m., Wednesday.

Miramar accepting nominees for Corps' top athletes

Miramar's Marine Corps Community Services is requesting for commands to submit nominations for the 2000 Marine Corps male and female athlete of the year. The time period for nominees is Oct. 1, 1999 to Oct. 1 of this year. Any Marine who has excelled in intramural, All Marine or national-level competition is eligible.

Submit your nominations to Bob Stopp, MCCS athletic director, no later than Sept. 15. Stopp can be reached at 577-4127 for more information.

Free transportation planned for marathon participants

Third MAW is providing free transportation to the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, D.C. for all West Coast active duty or reserve Marines participating in the event. A KC-130 lift will depart MCAS Miramar Oct. 20 and land at Andrews Air Force Base.

According to Operations, transportation will be provided for Marines, but space is limited. The aircraft will return on Oct. 23.

Sign up immediately to reserve a seat on the aircraft. Call Maj. Adam P. Holmes, operations officer, VMGR-352, at 577-8233, for more information.

Unit financial counseling coming soon

MCCS has a two-day class scheduled Oct. 19-20 to train responsible candidates designated by their commands to provide financial assistance to Marines in their units. Classes will be held in Classroom "A" in Bldg. 2273 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Oct. 19, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 20.

Financial trainers will be equipped with specific tools to enable Marines to identify their financial problems, explore solutions that would work in specific situations, consider the consequences of their financial action, create a plan that will produce results and select ways to achieve their personal financial goals.

The purpose of this program is to increase job performance, retention and readiness, money management skills, quality of life, personal savings, financial stability and consumer awareness.

The program also aims to reduce letters of indebtedness, time lost on the job, bounced checks, loan requests, personal bankruptcy, credit abuse, financial stress and wage garnishment.

Seating is limited. Call Tom Graneau at 577-9802 to reserve your seats.

Host family sought

The non-profit organization Council for Educational Travel USA Exchange Program is seeking a host home for a 17-year-old exchange student from Hong Kong who is due to arrive in late August.

He speaks English, has his own spending money and insurance and is eager to become a participating member of an American family for five months.

Hosts must provide room, board and parental guidance while the child gets to pitch in on everything from doing chores to joining in family discussions. Imagine the prom or homecoming as seen through the eyes of a young man raised in a foreign country!

Suicide prevention package set for Navy, Marine Corps

The Navy and Marine Corps, under the consultation of the American Association of Suicide, recently collaborated on the produc-

tion of a video training package called "Suicide Prevention: Taking Action - Saving Lives."

Creating the training package was part of a plan to standardize annual training on suicide prevention throughout the Department of the Navy. It contains an 18-minute video, facilitator's manual and transparencies for an overhead projector.

Based around the themes that Marines and Sailors "take care of each other" and that "It's OK to get help," the video displays a variety of scenarios which illustrate practical ways to intervene with people who are at risk of suicide.

According to Marine Administrative Message 390/00, the intent of the training package is not to teach Marines and Sailors to be counselors, but to show how all personnel can work with the chain of command to get help for people through local assistance resources.

The training package is currently being distributed to all commands. Additional training packages can be ordered by commands through the Defense Visual Information website at <http://dodimagery.afis.osd.mil>.

For more information concerning the package, call Cruz Martinez at (703) 784-9526.



**MAKE TRACKS TO
OUR WEBSITE:**
www.miramar.usmc.mil

It don't mean a Thing if you ain't got that Swing

Marines flex muscles enroute to armed services softball title

Story and Photos by
Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

The All-Marine softball team left nothing to the imagination by pummeling the competition in the 2000 Armed Forces Men's Softball Championships.

Hosted by Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Aug. 23 to 25 at the Poway Sportsplex, Poway, Calif., the Marines ended the Air Force's three-year championship reign.

Even with a team total of 59 homeruns, the defending All-Air Force team couldn't bring home the bacon as it limped to a third place, 5-4 record.

Each team played nine games apiece over the three-day tournament. The Marine team locked up the gold medal by Game 6, going undefeated through the initial stretch. Enthusiastic support and skillful play helped the Marines to overcome the Navy, Army and Air Force teams.

"We had speed, base hitting, a strong bench. We just had an all-around outstanding team," said All-Marine coach Michael Turney. "Every service had a great team. It was just who was on at the time, who played with a little more heart. We had a little more heart."

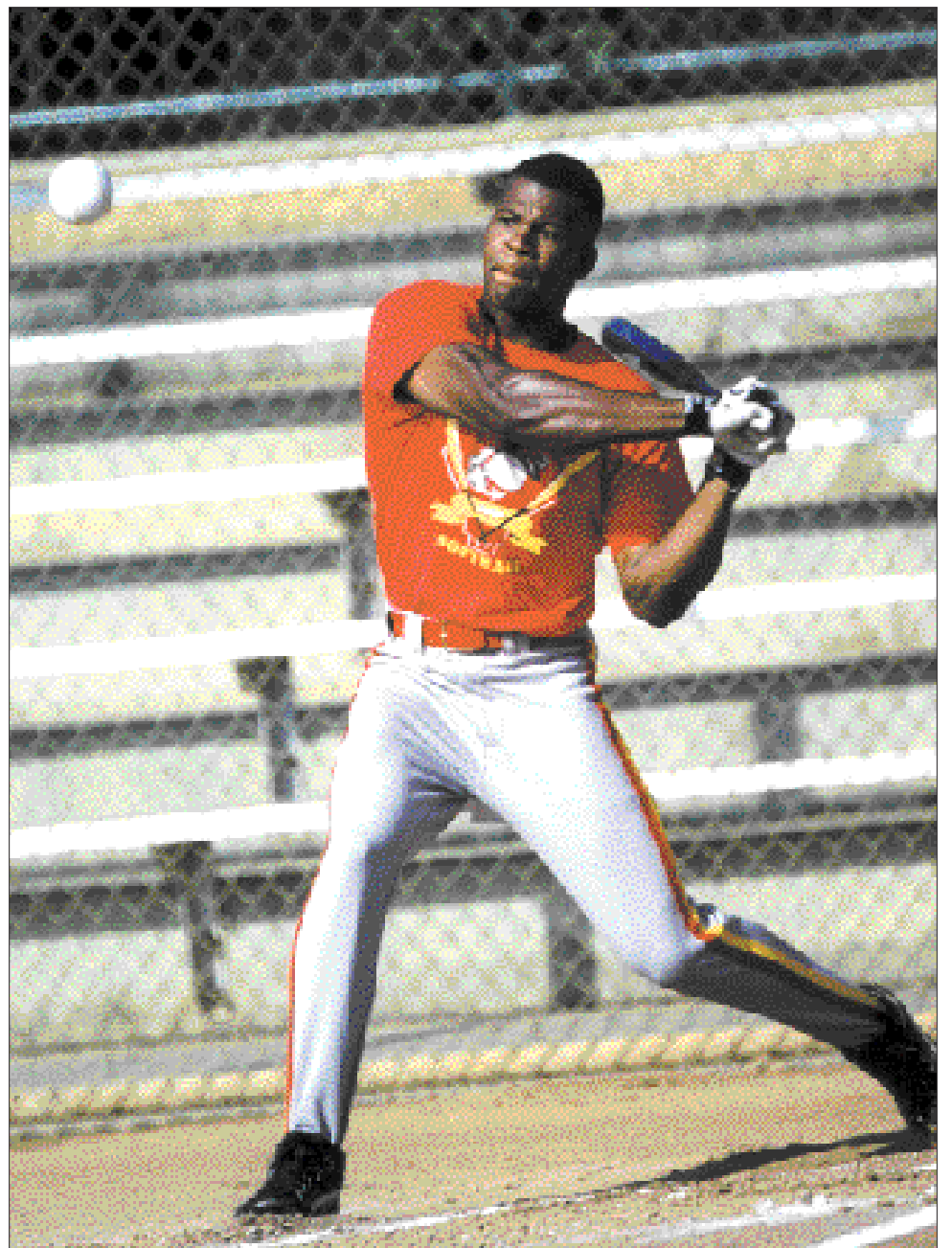
More than half of the All-Marine team batted .500 or more throughout the competition, and with contributions like Brent Loechler's 10 homeruns and 28 RBIs, the team was unstoppable.

One Marine in particular drew a crowd of fanfare – Miramar's own Armando Delsi, a Station Property control officer. The short-stop nailed three homeruns, 14 RBIs and ended the tourney with a .467 batting average. His smooth defensive skill, however, earned him a spot on the All-Armed Forces team.

"I think my highlight of the games was against the Air Force. We were going into the bottom of the sixth inning, up by two runs. I came in and hit a three-run home run, which sealed the game for us," said Delsi. "I'm glad I got to play here. It was a much better experience for me this year than last year in Pensacola, Fla., where nobody knew me."

The Marine Corps team went the entire tournament undefeated until Game 17, when it lost to the Air Force 20-8, in the final game of the tourney.

According to All-Air Force coach Jack Hayes, "We just didn't come up with enough runs. We had key people in situations we wanted. They just didn't produce on it. Other



All-Marine right fielder Alonzo Baxter prepares to connect during Game 1 against the Navy. Baxter, stationed at MCB Camp Pendleton, ended the tournament with a .667 batting average and was named to the All-Armed Forces National team.

than that we played well. I'm not upset with the guys, it just wasn't enough at the right time."

Taking home the silver was the All-Army team with a 5-4 record, which defeated the Air Force twice, once in Game 8 and again in Game 14. The soldiers proved to be very tough competitors, ending the tourney with

a team batting average of .524 and a total of 207 runs. Two players, Elmer Mason Jr. and Matthew Guth, batted over .700.

Throughout the tourney the All-Navy team couldn't seem to get it started. Despite the Sailors hard efforts and play, the Navy appeared to be outmatched in just about every game, ending with an 0-8 record.

At the end of the tournament, 10 players were selected to the All-Armed Forces team. Marines once again led the way with five selections: Alonzo Baxter, Cherylton McRae, Henry Trier, Loechler and Miramar's own, Delsi.

Air Force selectees included Jason Parker, Daniel Simpson and William Cramblett, while the Army representatives were Dexter Avery and Mason.

The All-Armed Forces selectees were automatically added to the All-Armed Forces National team, which will compete in the AFA Nationals in Lawton, Okla.



All-Marine outfielder Tranzie Campbell slaps palms with his teammates after receiving his gold medal and certificate during the tournament's closing ceremony. The Camp Pendleton Marine earned a spot on the All-Armed Forces National team.

8-0 Jags continue Pendleton stompdance

*Photos and story by
Cpl. Micheal O. Foley*

The Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Jaguars upped their record to 8-0 in the Camp Pendleton Tackle Football League with a 27-2 smashing of 1st Maintenance Bn. at Camp Pendleton Monday.

Although the offense sputtered throughout the night with turnovers and penalties, the defense came up big by maintaining good field position and scoring two touchdowns of its own.

The defense made its mark on the opening drive when linebacker Lonnie Graves picked off a 1st Maintenance Bn. pass and charged 30 yards down the soggy field and into the end zone. Kicker Kevin J. Mercier booted the extra point, making the score 7-0 before the Jaguar offense had run a play.

On its first possession, the offense moved stealthily down the field with a series of running plays and short passes, until 1st Maintenance Bn. made a stand and forced a punt.

Mercier pinned 1st Maintenance deep into its own territory with a good punt and it was once again the defense's turn to work its magic.

The blood-hungry Jaguar defense kept 1st Maintenance Bn. moving backward on the first two plays of the drive. On the third, the quarterback dropped back to pass and took a vicious hit from defender Darrick Jordan, sending the ball flying into the hands of another Jaguar inside the 5-yard line.

Unfortunately the sputtering offense couldn't punch the ball past the goal line. In fact, a 25-yard sack on first down sent the offense out past the 30-yard line where quarterback Aaron Sutton threw an interception. The next play the smothering Miramar defense stole the ball back with an interception by Floyd Elam at midfield just before the end of the first quarter.

"The other team put eight or nine players in the box to try to stop our running game," said Richard L. Mohny, Miramar head coach. "That caused us to throw the ball a little more than this team is used to. Plus, some of our wideouts have been on leave the past few weeks, so their timing was



Darrick Jordan (42) blitzes from the secondary, forcing 1st Maintenance Bn.'s quarterback into an eventual interception during the first quarter of Monday night's game. The Jaguar defense spent much of its time in the Maintenance Bn. backfield and scored two touchdowns of its own.

An efficient offense backed by an opportunistic defense has allowed the Jaguars to outscore their opponents 246-8 this season.

The Jags face their stiffest challenge of the season Wednesday night when they face Transportation Support Bn., the only other undefeated team in the league.

See **Jags**, page 10



Jaguars pressure from up the middle forces 1st Maintenance quarterback into one of several turnovers in the game. A botched extra-point attempt accounted for the only points scored against the Jags.

Chargers salute San Diego-based service members

By Cpl. Pete A. Voss

CPAO, MCRD San Diego

The Marine said he felt like a king when he walked to the 50-yard line at Qualcomm Stadium to receive his plaque in front of 43,500 football fans. Cpl. Dan Lee was one of 2,000 San Diego-area service members attending the San Diego Chargers Military Appreciation Night, Aug. 25.

The Chargers’ organization recognized some of the San Diego area’s finest military men and women. Lee was one of those spotlighted. Lee was presented a plaque and was recognized as Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego’s Marine of the Quarter.

“It was an honor,” said Lee. “It’s an honor just to be a Marine, but it’s an even greater honor to represent MCRD in front of all these San Diegans.”

The San Diego Chargers saluted the military by offering complimentary tickets to service members throughout Southern California.

Anyone could have watched the televised Chargers game as they beat the Arizona Cardinals 24-20, but local service members and thousands of fans in the stands experienced a unique San Diego pregame and half-time show.

“This was our chance to salute the military by bringing them to our fans

and have everyone thank them at once,” said Sean O’Connor, director of event productions and stadium operations. “We had excellent feedback from our fans. A lot of them said it was the best halftime show they’ve ever experienced.”

The pregame began with MCRD San



Photo by Cpl. Pete A.Voss

Marines from the MCRD San Diego Color Guard re-enact the flag raising atop Mount Surabachi during halftime of the Chargers Aug. 25 home game.

Diego Band playing the Marines’ Hymn and the National Anthem, while the Mounted Color Guard, home-based in Barstow, Calif., proudly displayed the colors. As the Marines in the audience stood at attention, a certain look of admiration swept over the fans’ faces in the stadium.

“It was excellent for esprit de corps,” said Sgt. Timothy Santana, an MCRD San Diego Band French horn player. “I was overwhelmed by the crowd. They were amazing. I felt really appreciated.”

As the fireworks began to dissipate into the early-evening sky, the crowd’s eyes wandered to the field, to the screen and back to the sky—there was still more to come from above. Eight Navy SEALs parachuted from the sky, performing tricks and winning the hearts of the audience.

The admiration and appreciation was interrupted momentarily as the audience was struck with awe as 250 Marines unveiled a

U.S. flag covering the football field. An F-18 fly-over and fireworks display put the finishing touches on the Star-Spangled Banner.

The halftime show allowed the band to take center stage on the 50-yard line while Marines from the Depot Color Guard re-enacted the raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi.

Sgt. Adrian Jones, one of the Marines from the Depot Color Guard re-enactment, said the halftime show helped him see the raising of the flag through a new perspective.

“The whole moment was motivating. The audience made it very special and made me proud to be a Marine,” said Jones.

After the motivating halftime show, the Chargers continued to trail to the Cardinals until 6:27 left in the game. The Chargers capped a 15-play possession with a 2-yard run in the end zone and won the game 24-20.

Family, continued from page 2

already understood. Personal Services decided months ago to keep the “personal” in its title by deciding against an automated telephone system. Mushallo said people call her offices with personal needs and concerns, and they need to talk to a person, not a voice menu. Be that as it may, she said the division would take advantage of technology when appropriate for their clients’ needs. The division is currently considering a plan to set up a “Cyber Cafe” for family members of deployed service members.

“Almost everyone knows how to use e-mail, but not everyone can afford to have a computer at home,” said Mushallo.

Several efforts to help families on the economic front were discussed at the conference.

A plan to realign Basic Allowance for Housing rates was also announced by Charles Cragin, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, according to Keating. Current DoD policy depends on service members living off-base to spending 20 percent of their entitlements on housing in addition to their BAH. “They’re trying to take that down to zero,” said Keating. He said the plan, if passed, would start by reducing the percentage to 15 and taper it down to zero over a num-

ber of years.

Initiatives to remove service members from food stamp roles by replacing the food stamps with a debit card were also discussed, Keating said. A Thrift Saving Account has also been congressionally approved. The plan would allow service members to put up to 5 percent of their entitlements and any cash bonuses awarded into a tax-deferred savings account similar to a 401K, according to Keating.

Bernard Rostker, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, announced in the AFIS press release that an initiative to meet DoD’s child care needs by increasing the availability of in-home care was in progress. He called this “the largest untapped portion of our child care program,” noting that the initiative would also offer more employment opportunities for military spouses. Currently there are about 200 certified Child Development Homes in-home child care providers in the San Diego area, 20 of whom are aboard Miramar.

Workshops to improve spouse employment assistance programs were held concurrent with the conference. The spouse employment summit is designed to help DoD and the services enhance military spouse careers, family income and retention of high-quality military personnel.



Sizzling hot September show

The Miller Lite “Comics on Duty” show will appear at the base theater Sept. 8 at 7 p.m. The show features national headliners Chris Alpine, Jeff Capri, John Knight and Kevin Jordan. Because the show contains adult humor, no one under 18 will be admitted without a parent or guardian. The show is free; tickets are available at the Entertainment Ticket Office (limit four tickets per person while available). Call the ticket office at 577-1016 or stop by the office in Building 2524. Following “Comics on Duty,” the film “X-Men” will be shown.

Runway 10K & Fight Line Bike Classic is coming

Entry blanks for the 2000 Runway 10K & Flight Line Bike Classic (10K/5K Run/Walk & Fun Bike Ride) are available. The events, which include a Wheelchair 10K, take place Sept. 23. Full details are available on the entry form. Call 577-1000 or 577-4128 for details. To register online, go to www.mccsmiramar.com and look for the link under Special Events.

Get affordable SCUBA training

You don’t need a submarine to check out the underwater world ... just scuba certification. The MCCS Semper Fit Aquatics Program provides affordable entry-level, advanced and master diver classes. The Basic Scuba Diver Course offers NAUI certification with 12 hours of classroom study, 12 hours of pool training and five ocean dives. The \$99 tuition fee includes all snorkel and scuba equipment except wetsuit, booties and gloves; wetsuit rental is \$15. There is a \$45 fee for books and certificate. Week-day and weekend classes are offered. Your “C” card (certification card) will be honored at dive destinations around the world! Call 577-4137 for more information.

MCCS reminds you to ‘Party Smart’

To promote the use of the Designated Driver Program, Miramar has expanded the Know Your Limits/Know Your Choices program, creating the overall “Party Smart” program. The “Party Smart” program provides alternatives to drinking and driving. Designated drivers receive free non-alcoholic beverages, a complimentary meal for a later date at an MCCS food service facility and free valuable coupons for various MCCS facilities. Also, for anyone who chooses not to drive or when the server deems that driving is not an option, MCCS personnel will either phone a friend or family member to have them picked up (individuals receive a coupon for

a complimentary meal at a later date), MCCS employees will call a taxi cab for them or make arrangements for patrons at the Consolidated Bachelors’ Quarters. All individuals should always use a designated driver! For more information on “Party Smart” call 577-4808.

Career Fair 2000 offers opportunities

More than 60 companies will be on hand to discuss full-time, part-time and temporary positions in the public and private sectors Wednesday at the Officers’ Club. The event kicks off at 10 a.m. and will wrap up at 2 p.m. Participants are urged to bring resumes. Contact the Career Resource Office at 577-6710 or stop by the CRO, located at Bldg. 5305, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Stables offer riding instruction

The Stables in East Miramar offer instruction by Nancy Lawler, who specializes in youth riders’ Western and English formats;

Sara Pinney, who teaches and trains horses; Janet Reed, who teaches dressage and hunter/jumper skills, and Hedi Wilkes, who teaches English riding to children. The Stables also offers monthly boarding and a tack and feed store. Call the Stables at 577-4139 for more information.

Get your MCCS updates on-line

Don’t forget to check out our Web site at www.mccsmiramar.com to see what’s happening on base!

Air show ticket info

General admission blanket seating at the Miramar Air Show is free, but several paid seating upgrades are offered. The ultimate is the Semper Fi Chalet, which includes a continental breakfast, buffet lunch and snacks, beer, wine, soda and water, preferred parking and a complimentary souvenir program. Other choices include the Flight Deck Chalet, the Observation Deck Chalet, Box Seats and Grandstand Seating. Ticket prices vary by location and show, but advance purchaces will save you money. Pick up a

brochure at the Entertainment Ticket Office, Bldg. 2524, or call 577-1016. Tickets will soon be available through Ticketmaster. Visit www.miramarairshow.com for current information.

Area 51 offers hot tunes

“The Revelations” bring live roots reggae in espanol to the Miramar E-Club Sept. 16 from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. There is a \$5 cover charge. Additionally, Sept. 20 is Tex-Mex Tejano Night, featuring Sammy the DJ from San Antonio. The show begins at 8 p.m. and runs until 12:30 a.m. There is a \$2 cover charge. Call 577-7968 for details about these or other shows.

Ticket office has Chargers tickets

The Entertainment Ticket Office has a limited amount of San Diego Chargers tickets still available. Regular season home game tickets are \$47 each, which start Sept. 10 when the Bolts host New Orleans. Home games still available include Seattle (Sept. 24) and Kansas City (Nov. 26).

Free **Movies**

• **Today:** *The Patriot (R)*, 6:30 p.m.; *Me, Myself and Irene (R)*, 9:30 p.m.

• **Saturday:** *Rocky and Bullwinkle (PG)*, 1:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; *Chicken Run (G)*, 6:30 p.m

• **Sunday:** *Chicken Run (G)*, 1 p.m.; *The Perfect Storm (PG-13)*, 6:30 p.m.

Making smart decisions this Labor Day holiday

Labor Day, the last hurrah of summer! The 101st day of the critical days of Summer! You may be thinking, 'I made it safely through the summer, I'm good to go now – no worries, no cares, no concerns.' Only a very foolish Marine would believe so.

In Southern California and Arizona, we know that summer is not over. We have many days of great weather ahead of us. With this great weather, we still face the same concerns that began last Memorial Day or before. Swimming, surfing, scuba, boating and other water recreation require us to take all necessary safety precautions. Our ever-present traffic concerns and conditions remain – and will remain – throughout the year. We know that more Marines are buckling up, that with the new Arrive Alive Program, more Marines will arrive safely at home. But there is still much work to be done. Say "No" to alcohol, speeding and driving while fatigued. You know that saying "No" is the safest thing, and the right thing, to do.

No matter what your plans for the extended Labor Day weekend and beyond, know what the hazards will be. Make a decision. If there are no controls that can be used to eliminate the hazards and reduce the risks, your decision may have to be "No" or to change your plans to make this a safe "official end of summer" celebration.

Have a safe Labor Day! Use your leadership skills, look out for your fellow Marines. Return safely from the holiday, refreshed and prepared to face new challenges ahead in the safest possible way.

Maj. Gen. William G. Bowdon
Commander, Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area



Photo by Cpl. Micheal O. Foley

Jaguars linebacker Josh Mount (45) stares down the 1st Maintenance Bn. backfield during the third quarter of Monday's game.

Jags,
continued from page 7

off with the quarterback."

The beginning of the second quarter saw the Miramar offense show its true colors. Behind the strong blocking of the offensive line, the Jaguars moved steadily down the field. Then Sutton hooked up with flanker Tim McLean for a 25-yard touchdown pass. Mercier's extra point brought the score to 14-0 halfway through the second quarter.

The Jaguar defense forced a punt on the next drive, giving the ball back to the offense at its own 20-yard line. Sutton orchestrated another good drive moving the ball down the field with short passes and runs. After completing a pass near mid-field, receiver Jermaine Rutledge was hit squarely by three defenders, popping the ball from his grasp and onto the wet turf where four 1st Maintenance players covered it.

Both teams traded punts after good defensive stands and the Jaguars had 1st Maintenance pinned deep into its own territory again. The 1st Maintenance Bn. quarterback started working from the shotgun formation to help alleviate some of the pressure from the Jaguar defense. The formation change proved to be costly when his center snapped the ball over his head and linebacker Matt A. Shivers, recovered the ball on the 8-yard line.

Running back Jeremiah Budnovich charged into the end zone on the next play for Miramar's third touchdown of the night. Perhaps the most exciting play of the game was on the following extra-point attempt.

Mercier lined up for what was a normal extra-point attempt. The holder had difficulty putting the slippery ball down in time for the kick, and the kick was blocked. A 1st Maintenance Bn. defender picked up the

ball and out ran the entire Miramar squad the length of the field for two points, making the score 20-2.

Although the score stopped the Jaguars shutout streak at five games, no one has scored on the first-team defense all season. In fact, the Jaguars have outscored their opponents 246-8 over eight games this season.

Both offenses struggled in the constant drizzle through the second half. Neither team could get into a rhythm and a large piece of the Jaguar offense, Budnovich, went down with a knee injury after being tackled awkwardly in the third quarter. Budnovich, Miramar's leading rusher, will be out for an undetermined amount of time according to Mohny.

"The extent of his injury is unknown until he goes under for an MRI, but he will definitely miss the next few games," said Mohny. "The team will miss his football smarts, leadership role and mostly his play on the football field. Our other running backs will have to step up and carry his load."

Before he left the game, Budnovich had 108 yards on 11 carries.

Before the end of the game, the defense came up big again. Linebacker Josh Mount fell on another 1st Maintenance Bn. over snap in the end zone for a touchdown. This time Mercier made the extra point making the final score 27-2.

Miramar may have a more difficult time next week against the Transportation Support Bn. Jaguars. The TSB Jaguars are the only other undefeated team in the league and could threaten the Miramar Jaguars undefeated record if their offense sputters like it did this week.

Next week's game is on Sept. 6 at 7:10 p.m. at Camp Pendleton's 11 Area Main Side football field.